DESIGN TALKS 2021-22

organized by Rebecca Naegele

Inspired by the Year of Science at Barnard, the 2021-22 Design Talks is a series of talks and workshops by artists and designers whose practices intersect with STEAM.

Our fall semester speakers include Xin Xin, Constantina Zavitsanos, and FIELD. Our spring semester participants include Open Style Lab, Fields Harrington, and Ana Mengote Baluca.

This programming series takes place at Barnard College's Design Center and is organized by Rebecca Naegele, Design Center Coordinator.

Xin Xin leads a discussion and workshop on their consent-based open source communication platform Togethernet.

Constantina Zavistanos talks through recent projects engaging in holography and utilizing scientific instruments including interferometers.

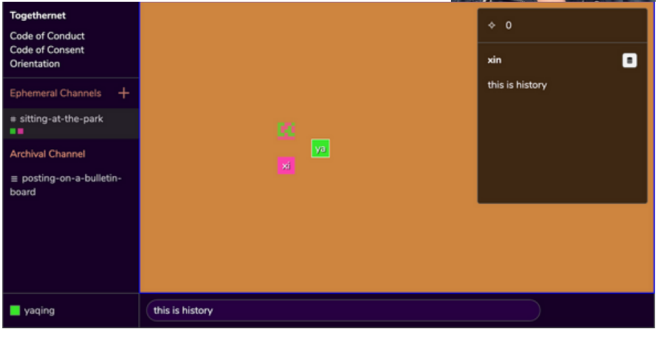
Field engages in a hands-on bioplastics workshop transforming grass clippings into a sustainable and structural material.

Open Style Lab leads an interactive workshop on their inclusive design process and accessible tools and methods used in fashion design.

fields harrington examines social implications for a science of work and the biography of the spirometer through his artistic practice.

Ana Mengote Baluca demonstrates how to add a solar powered charger to a tote bag with creatively designed circuits.

Consentful Software Design with Xin Xin



Barnard's Computational Science Center and Design Center host interdisciplinary artist and community organizer **Xin Xin**, who demonstrates **Togethernet**, an open-source software that invites small groups of participants to build community archives through practices of consent.

Consentful Software Design is a lecture that breaks down the design process of Togethernet, an open-source software that invites groups of 10 or fewer participants to build community archives through practices of consent. Designed around the ethos of data transparency and consent, Togethernet's goal is to transform digital rights policies such as the right to be forgotten into an embodied practice through reimagining software architecture and user experience.

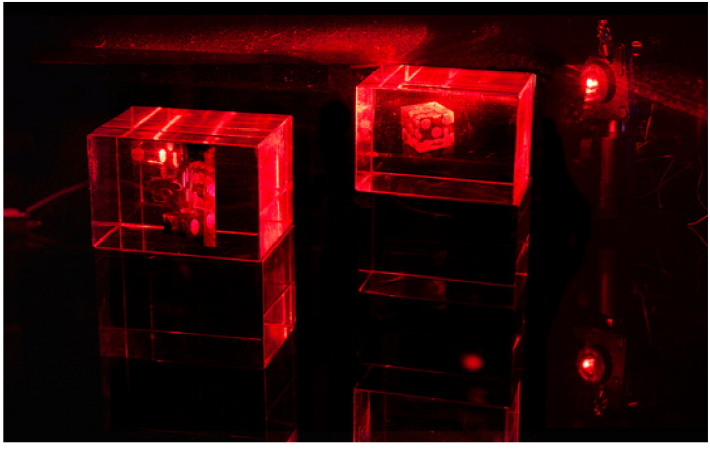
This tool and initiative stands on the shoulders of Consentful Tech Zine by Una Lee and Dann Toliver and Design Justice Network Principles — by considering transparency and consent every step of the way, the source code serves as both a technical and a moral document that seeks to uncover systems of power and uncertainties embedded in network technologies.

Bio: **Xin Xin** is an interdisciplinary artist and community organizer currently making socially-engaged software that explores the possibilities of reshaping language and power relations. Through mediating, subverting, and innovating modes of social interaction in the digital space, Xin invites participants to relate to one another and experience togetherness in new and unfamiliar ways.

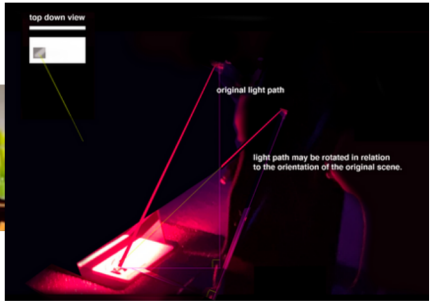
As an artist, their work has been exhibited internationally at Ars Electronica, DIS, Gene Siskel Film Center, Tiger Strikes Asteroid and Machine Project. Their project Togethernet was selected for the 2020 Rapid Response for a Better Digital Future Fellowship at Eyebeam.

Born in Taipei, Taiwan and raised in Massachusetts, Xin identifies as a cross-cultural, non-binary, anarcho-feminist. Xin received their MFA from UCLA Design Media Arts and teaches at Parsons School of Design as an Assistant Professor of Interaction and Media Design.

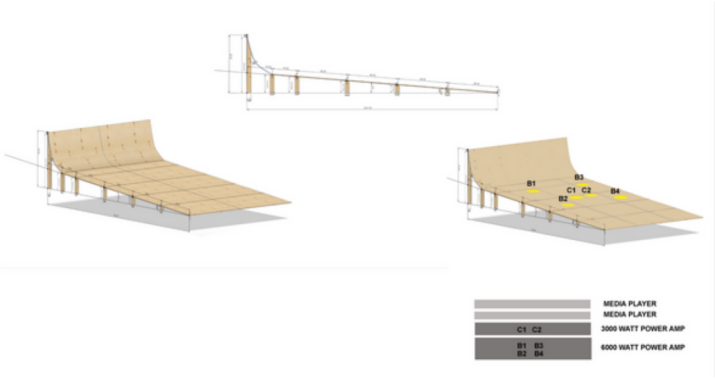
Holograms & Haptics at the Limit of Sight & Sound with Constantina Zavistanos

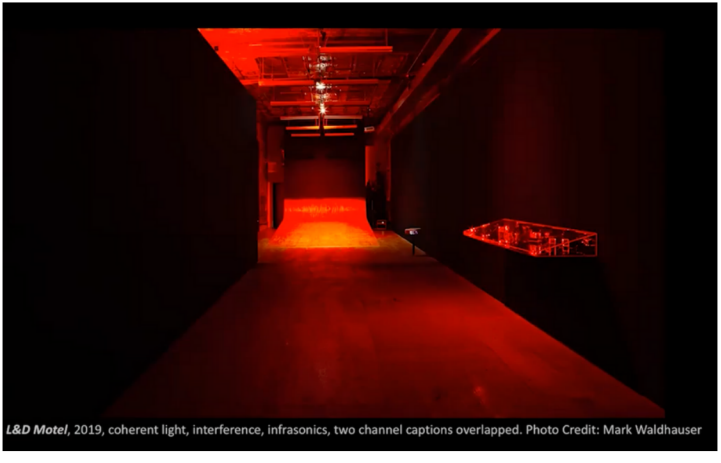


Constantina Zavitsanos discusses their work in waves from holography to haptic sound, and the cacophony of incapacity and interference as shifting sites for speculation and sociality beyond scarcity.



Bio: Constantina Zavitsanos works in sculpture, performance, text, and sound to elaborate debt, dependency, and means beyond measure. Zavitsanos has exhibited at the New Museum, Brooklyn Museum, Artists Space, The Kitchen, and Participant Inc (New York), at Arika (Glasgow), and HKW (Berlin). With Park McArthur, they wrote "Other Forms of Conviviality" in Women & Performance (Routledge), and "The Guild of the Brave Poor Things" in Trap Door: Trans Cultural Production and the Politics of Visibility (MIT Press). Zavitsanos is the 2021 recipient of the Roy Lichtenstein Award from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts and the 2022 Keith Haring Fellow in Art & Activism at Bard College.





L&D Motel, 2019, coherent light, interference, infrasonics, two channel captions overlapped. Photo Credit: Mark Waldhauser

How to grow a Field? with Field

Field collaborators Supermrin, Jil Berenblum, and Xenia Adjoubei lead a hands-on workshop transforming grass clippings into a sustainable and structural bioplastics material.

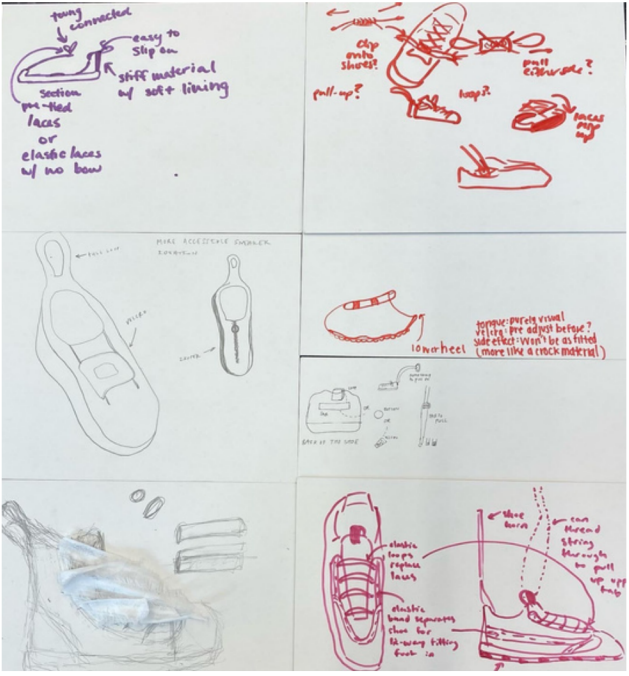
Field is a collaborative long-durational art project, presently on residency at Governors Island in New York. Field members form a vast network across the globe and include Jil Berenblum, Ane Gonzalez Lara, Jessica Fernonani Cooke, Xenia Adjoubei, Supermrin and many others. Field was founded in 2018.

Field is a bio-arts laboratory and research space that creates new discourse around our relationships with land and nature to rethink the homogeneity, order, and control present within the built environment. Field collaborators are biohackers, artists, engineers and architects who open source their findings to share recipes, fabrication processes and tools for working with new experimental and sustainable materials. "How to Grow a Field?" is a 2.5 hour workshop where participants learn to make Field's new grass-based bioplastic and experiment with a variety of fabrication processes with this material. In the process, Field will discuss the opportunities and challenges of working with biomaterials, and introduce participants to their ongoing research with robotic fabrication techniques for these new materials.

Introduction to Bioplastics

Hack for Access with Open Style Lab

Open Style Lab (OSL) is a National Design Award Winning nonprofit organization committed to making style accessible for everyone, regardless of their cognitive and physical abilities. Their workshop includes a presentation on inclusive design, introducing the organization's approach and sharing sample work. It continues with participants having an interactive session on tools used in the field of fashion and various ways to make them accessible, working with OSL's Hackability Kit. Partipicants engage in team ideation on design tools and how they might be more accessible.

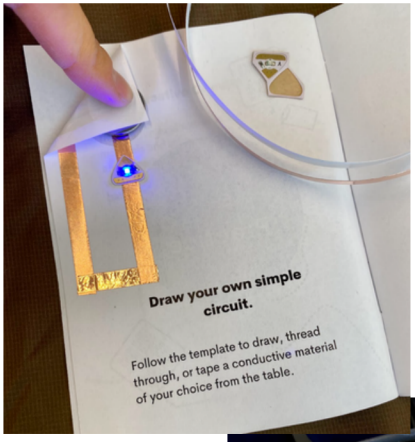

funny connected
easy to slip on
stiff material w/ soft lining
section pre-tied laces or elastic laces w/ no bow
clip onto shoes!
pull-up?
loop?
pull either side?
laces pop up
MIKE ACCESSIBLE SNEAKER
10 w/ heel
torque: purely visual testing: pre adjust before? side effect: wouldn't be as fitted (more like a rock material)
elastic loops replace laces
elastic band sequencing shoe for all-day fitting foot in
shoe hook
can thread string through for pull up tab

Creative Circuits with Ana Mengote Baluca

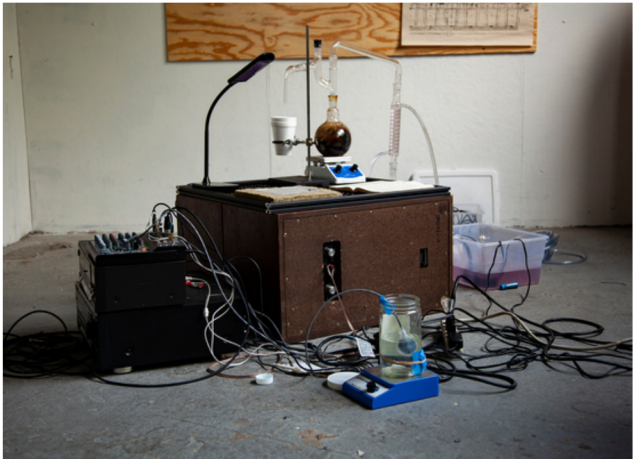
The aesthetics of circuits are not usually its most appealing feature, which is why they are often traditionally hidden, but with the advent of new conductive materials, it is now easier to create beautiful circuits that you can display and wear!

In this workshop, Ana demonstrates how to add a solar charger to a tote bag with circuits drawn with clever materials. We begin with a quick lesson on circuits and exploration of different conductive materials such as conductive thread, ink, and copper tape. We then draw our own circuitry to create solar-powered tote bags.

Bio: **Ana Mengote Baluca** is a generalist industrial designer, working on using design as a tool to pursue a more equitable society. She is motivated and inspired by solving meaningful problems and has worked in different industries such as wearable technology, IoT, jewelry, furniture houseware, and wayfinding. Experimenting with and hacking materials is an important part of her process. When she's not in her studio making jewelry, textiles, or whatever she may come up with, she teaches sophomore design students at the Pratt Institute.


Draw your own simple circuit.
Follow the template to draw, thread through, or tape a conductive material of your choice from the table.

Economies of Breath
with fields harrington



During this talk, fields examines the social implications for a science of work and the biography of the spirometer. The spirometer's measure of lung capacity is inextricable from the racializing surveillance of statistical law, by which entropy, energy and research into fatigue all have contributed to the creation of categories of difference and determined values of vitality.

(1st Law)

$\Delta U = Q - W$

ΔU=change in internal energy

Q=heat added

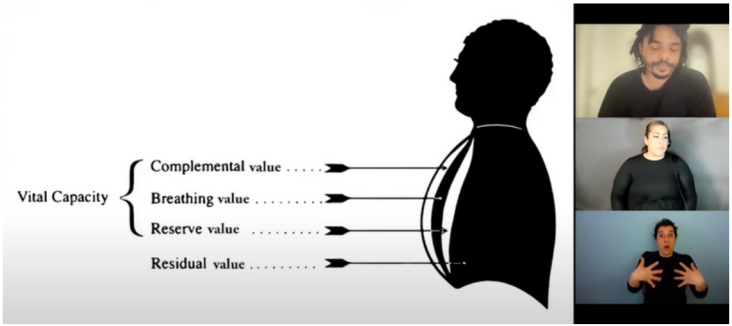
W=work done by the system

2nd Law

Samuel Cartwright "Report on the Diseases and Physical Peculiarities of the Negro Race," New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal 7 (1851)

Benjamin Apthorp Gould, Investigations in the Military and Anthropological Statistics of American Soldiers

John Hutchinson, The Spirometer, the Stethoscope, and the Scale-Balance; Their Use in Discriminating Diseases of the Chest, and Their Value in Life Offices; with Remarks on the Selection of Lives for Life Assurance Companies (London: John Churchill, 1852)



PULMONARY CAPACITY. 471

TABLE I.

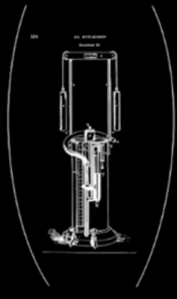
Average Capacity of Lungs.

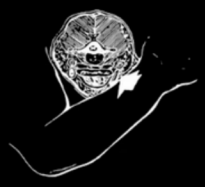
	In usual Vigor		Not in usual Vigor		Total	
	No. Obs.	Cubic Inches	No. Obs.	Cubic Inches	No. Obs.	Cubic Inches
White Soldiers, Earlier Series	4 227	175.054	1 213	156.999	6 722	167.985
White Soldiers, Later Series	2 084	167.596	1 547	155.251	3 631	161.697
Indians	1 204	179.217	-	-	1 204	179.217
Students	200	204.500	-	-	200	204.500
Full Blacks	1 071	163.318	221	149.697	1 292	161.440
Mulattoes	671	161.816	150	145.436	821	158.870
Indians	864	183.098	17	179.206	311	164.979

The extreme values recorded for any individual in the several classes were, in cubic inches: —

	In usual Vigor		Not in usual Vigor	
	Greatest	Smallest	Greatest	Smallest
White Soldiers, Earlier Series	345	80	303	10
White Soldiers, Later Series	332	40	295	30
Indians	327	80	-	-
Students	313	100	-	-
Full Blacks	280	70	246	60
Mulattoes	290	45	240	25
Indians	310	40	280	110

The great difference of the mean volume found for the black race from that which seems to belong to the whites, cannot fail to attract attention at the first glance. Its bearings are perhaps





Bio: **fields harrington** (b. 1986 Sacramento, CA; based in Brooklyn, NY) is an interdisciplinary artist whose practice considers the blurring of boundaries between poetics and science. His work revisits the history of western empiricism and scientific systems, addressing legacies of violence as well as the enmeshment of science, racism, and ideology. By appropriating scientific processes and subverting their grammar, his desire is to relieve the black subjective experience from a legacy of historical violence. The weaving of artistic and scientific languages deployed in his work proposes the formation of a relational knowledge that recodes science through poetics.

fields received his BFA from the University of North Texas and his MFA from the University of Pennsylvania. He was a participant in the Whitney Independent Study Studio Program (2019-2020).

This zine was created by Rebecca Naegele,
Design Center Coordinator, 2022

Design Center

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